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## PENCE SUPPORTS ETHICS REFORMS

**Washington, Jan 5, 2007** - Washington, DC--U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement on the ethics package Congress will consider tonight:

**"Effective government in a free society depends on the integrity of our institutions and public servants.**

**I am pleased to support this bipartisan ethics reform package as an important step toward restoring public confidence in the fundamental integrity of our legislative process."**

### **Background**

Several of the provisions included in this title are similar or identical to provisions in the Lobbying, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (H.R. 4975), which passed the House of Representatives in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by the Republican majority.

The major provisions in this title include:

Bars Members of the House of Representatives from influencing the hiring decisions of private sector employers based on partisan political affiliation by threatening, offering, or withholding official acts. (Title II, section 202)

\*Note: This provision was adopted in Section 203 of H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which passed the House on May 3, 2006.

Bars Members and employees of the House from knowingly accepting gifts from lobbyists and foreign or private entities that employ lobbyists regardless of value, but exempts in place current exceptions. (Title II, section 203)

Prohibits any member of the House from knowingly accepting gifts from lobbyists and foreign or private entities that employ lobbyists regardless of value, but exempts in place current exceptions. (Title II, section 204)

The House of Representatives shall have the power to punish its members for disorderly conduct, and, with the concurrence of a majority of the whole House, to suspend or expel a member for disorderly conduct, or for any other cause of discipline, and to punish the officers and clerks of the House for any breach of the rules or discipline of the House, and to punish the members and officers of the House for any breach of the rules or discipline of the House.

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